GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:405
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005
MODERNISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES
Jogi Shri Ajit;Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any plan for the development and modernisation of postal services in urban and rural areas of the country during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for postal services expansion programme in urban and rural areas of the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The focus of the 10th plan is on development and modernisation of the vast physical network of the postal system to improve the efficiency of services and introduce new value added services. Accordingly, about 79% of the plan outlay received in BE 2004-05 was allocated for plan schemes relating to development and modernisation of postal services in the country both in the urban and rural areas. The scheme-wise details of plan allocation for development and modernisation during the year 2004-05 are given in the Annexure.

(c) & (d) Access to post office facilities in urban and rural areas is enhanced by opening post offices as well as Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in rural areas. Funds to the extent of Rs.4.46 crore have been provided for the related plan scheme, expansion of Postal Network in 2004-05. The 10th plan requires the Department to rationalise its network and open new post offices only by redeploying existing manpower, in order to become financially self sufficient, as the entire rural network subsidised. Plan support has also been accordingly restricted to cover only one time non-recurring cost of opening a post office. Hence, post offices are being opened from 2004-05 onwards in needy areas by relocating post offices that are located at a distance which is lesser than the prescribed norm both in urban and rural areas.

Annexure

Scheme-wise Details of Plan Allocation For Development And Modernisation During The Year 2004-05(BE)

SL.NO. NAME OF THE SCHEME/ACTIVITY QUTLAY Rs.in CRORES

1. Computerisation of post offices (installation of MPCMs), Accounts and administrative offices and software development 140.00

2. Computerisation and networking of mail offices 4.64

3. Modernisation & up gradation of VSAT system 0.30

4. Modernisation of operative/working system (improving ergonomics) 7.34

5. Automatic Mail Processing Centres 0.10
6. Mechanisation/Modernisation of Mail Movement 0.73

7 Modernisation/ upgradation of premium products 4.02

8. Upgradation & Promotion of Philately:
Provision of tools & equipments to units 0.20

9. Modernisation of Circle Stamp Depots 1.03
10. Computerisation of International Mail Processing 0
11. National Data Centre 0.10
12. Establishment of Express Parcel Post Centres 0.20
13. e-post 0.71
14. e-bill post 0.25

Total 159.62